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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,187	10/31/2003	Jason O. Adams	6232-237 (180086)	3192

7590 12/16/2004  
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EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/698,187

Applicant(s)

ADAMS ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12,23-31 and 36-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 28-31 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7-12,23,24,27 and 36-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6,25 and 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claims 1-12, 23-31 and 36-41 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, what different between "at least one opening" and "a corresponding first opening"; "a corresponding blade" and "a first blade";

Claim 1, lines 6 and 7; claim 3, line 6; claim 6, line 3; claim 7, line 4, "a compatible plug" should be changed -- the compatible plug--;

Claim 1, line 14, "a plug" should be changed -- the compatible plug--;

Claim 7, line 3, "the openings" lacks an antecedent basis;

Claim 7, lines 3 and 4, "the blades" lacks an antecedent basis;

Claim 8, line 2, "the receptacle and blade formations" lacks an antecedent basis;

Claim 23, what are relationship between "a general-use plug" in lines 12-13 and "a plug" in lines 15-16?

Claim 24, what "that plugs" refer to in line 2?

Claim 27, line 3, "a plug" should be changed -- the plug --;

Claim 36, line 8, "a first electrical contact" should be changed to --other electrical contact --;

Claim 38, what are a relationship between "a compatible plug" in line 6, "a corresponding plug" in line 8 and "a plug" in line 11 ?

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 7-12, 23-24, 27 and 36-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bagga (5,601,455).

Regarding claims 1, 7, 23 and 36-39, Bagga, figures 1, discloses a system comprising:

- a first and second receptacles (20) having at least one opening (24), the receptacle arranged to be supplied with electrical power regulated by a dimmer, the receptacle comprising:
- at least first electrical contact located for contact with a first blade the compatible plug to establish an electrical connection between the first blade and the first electrical contact;
- a mating formation pair including a receptacle formation (32) and a corresponding plug formation, the mating formation pair preventing a general-use plug compliant with the industry standard configuration and lacking the corresponding plug formation from establishing electrical connection with the receptacle, the receptacle formation of the mating formation pair allowing the plug defining the corresponding plug formation and other wise complying with

the industry standard configuration to establish electrical connection with the receptacle (column 3, lines 10-20).

Regarding claims 8-10, the opening and blade respectively defining receptacle and blade formations each define a cross section having a dimension that is reduced with respect to a corresponding dimension provided by the industry standard configuration, and including a width and a height.

Regarding claims 11 and 12, the receptacle is polarized and the opening defining the receptacle formation controls access to a hot electrical contact and including a common housing with at least one receptacle compliant with the industry standard configuration.

Regarding claim 24, the first and second receptacles each adapted to receive the plugs.

Regarding claim 27, the receptacle formation is defined by an opening (32) dimensioned to prevent insertion of a corresponding blade of the plug complying with the industry standard configuration.

Regarding claim 40, the plug including a plug body defining the plug formation and wherein the plug formation extends to a periphery of the plug body.

Regarding claim 41, the receptacle including first and second openings each defining a cross section having a height and a width, each defining a central axis with respect to the blade height and aligned with each other.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 28-31 are allowed.
5. Claims 2-6 and 25-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:  
  
None of the reference discloses the receptacle formation of the mating formation pair comprising a projection preventing insertion of the general-use plug, in combination with the other claimed elements of the embodiments recited.
7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

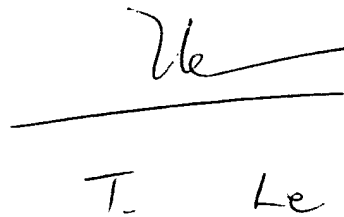
***Conclusion***

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.
9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2839

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TL.  
12/13/04.



A handwritten signature, possibly "T. Le", is written above a horizontal line. Below the line, the letters "T." and "Le" are written separately.